

Message Text

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47

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

/097 W

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R 240922Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3485

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USDEL MTN GENEVA UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 4956

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF ETRD

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

REF: STATE 242888

1. WE PLAN TO SEND THE FOLLOWING NOTE TO SAG. REQUEST
DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE.

QUOTE. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICAN PRESENTS
ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HAS
THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND SOUTH AFRICA IN 1973 AND 1974 UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII OF THE
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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE.

IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA UNDERTOOK TO ALLOW THE IMPORT OF CERTAIN ITEMS INTO THE REPUBLIC WITHOUT AN IMPORT PERMIT. AMONG THE ITEMS TO WHICH THIS UNDERTAKING APPLIED WERE AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS (TARIFF HEADING 87.01) AND COMPONENTS AND SUBASSEMBLIES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES (87.02).

THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT IMPORT PERMITS ARE STILL REQUIRED FOR THESE TWO ITEMS AND WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED WHEN THEY WILL BE ADDED TO THE LIST OF ITEMS THAT MAY BE FREELY IMPORTED WITHOUT A PERMIT.

THE EMBASSY AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE DEPARTMENT THE ASSURANCE OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT. WE HAVE PRESSED SAG AS REQUESTED REFTTEL BUT SEE NO PROSPECT THAT THESE ITEMS WILL BE ADDED TO FREE LIST. SAG'S REASON ON TRACTORS IS THAT THEY WANT TO PREVENT IMPORTS OF TYPES FOR WHICH AFTER SALES SERVICE IS NOT ADEQUATE. ON AUTO COMPONENTS THEIR REASON SEEMS TO BE TO PREVENT USE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO BUILD "EXCESSIVE" INVENTORIES. PROPOSED NOTE WOULD FORCE SAG TO STATE FORMALLY ITS INTENTION NOT TO ABIDE BY ITS ARTICLE XXVIII UNDERTAKING AS IT AFFECTS THESE TWO ITEMS.

BOWDLER

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